THE NEGRO FARMER

Published in the Interest of the Home, Farm and Garden; Especially Devoted to the Interest of Negro Land Owners and Tenant Farmers and Those Who Employ Negro Labor. The Only Negro Farm Newspaper in the World, to be Circulated Among 2,000,000 Black Farmers.

VOLUME I. TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALA., JANUARY 31, 1914 NUMBER

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GOVERNORS OF STATES GIVE OFFICIAL WELCOME TO "THE NEGRO FARMER"

And Words of Encouragement to Colored Tillers of the Soil

U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, Dec. 29, 1913.

Editor Negro Farmer,
Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

I am directed by the Secretary to acknowledge receipt of your letter * * * asking him to send a word of greeting to the colored farmers of the United States through your paper. The Secretary regrets that owing to the multitudinous duties which are devolving upon him because of being a member of the Federal Reserve Bank Organization Committee, he will not have time to give this matter attention.

Very respectfully,
(Signed) W. F. CALLANDER,
Private Secretary.

WEST VIRGINIA

Executive Department,
Charleston, 6 January, 1914.

Editor Negro Farmer:

The Negro Farmer can accomplish a wonderful good and bring great happiness and prosperity to thousands of the Negro race in the United States. The launching of this journal in the interest of Negro farmers is a forward and significant step and will wield an important influence in increasing and elevating the industry of farming among the colored people.

There is no greater problem confronting the American people today than that of promoting agricultural development in the different States, and in this the Negro should play an important role. In this development, so necessary to our civic and business development, the Negro will find comfort and realize more satisfactory independence and living conditions than he could possibly find in any other vocation and at the same time will be doing his part in helping to solve the most important economic problem of the present day.

I bespeak for the Negro Farmer a very bright future.

(Signed) H. D. HATFIELD,
Governor.

TEXAS

Governor's Office,
Austin, January 2, 1914.

I sincerely hope you will succeed in improving the thought and farming of our Negro population through the medium which you propose to publish. The Negro farmer ought to be encouraged to save some of the fruits of his labor, and acquire a little home of his own. * * * * *

Yours truly,
(Signed) O. B. COLQUITT,
Governor.

THE NEGRO FARMER

Negro farmers and agricultural laborers of all kinds number upward of two million (2,000,000) souls.

Of the seven hundred million dollars ($700,000,000) which represent the total wealth of all Negroes in the United States, Negro farmers own four hundred ninety-two million eight hundred ninety-eight thousand two hundred eighteen dollars ($492,898,218), or over seventy per cent. That is to say that Negro farmers own seventy out of every one hundred dollars owned by the whole race. All other classes of persons in the race must take off their hats to them.

Negro farmers and laborers altogether cultivate approximately 100,000,000 (one hundred million) acres of land in the Southern States alone.

They own domestic animals to the value of $177,273,785. Their poultry is worth $5,113,756. They have $36,861,418 invested in farm implements and machinery. They represent the largest occupation group among Negroes. This is better understood if we say that fifty-three per cent of all Negroes in the United States were engaged in agriculture in 1900 and Negro farmers and other agricultural laborers represent this group.

They were operating 893,384 farms in 1910.

In the South where the majority of Negro farmers live, they are 28.7 per cent of the total number of farmers.

In spite of all that is said about their ignorance and backwardness, they outstripped every other class of farmers in the United States, during the ten years between 1900 and 1910, in increasing the value of each class of farm property, that is, land, buildings, farm implements and machinery, and live stock. During the period mentioned, these Negro farmers increased the value of all their farm property 134 per cent; their live stock value increased 105 per cent; and their buildings 131 per cent, leading the Census Bureau to remark twice in succession concerning farm values that "For each class of property the farms of colored farmers show a more rapid increase than those of white farmers."—U. S. Census Report, 1910, Volume V, Agriculture, p. 185.

ALABAMA

Executive Department,
Montgomery, January 1, 1914.

Editor Negro Farmer: I believe that the periodical will prove of great value to your race * * * . The Negro is here to stay, and it will be useless for us to undertake to teach the white man scientific agriculture and ignore your race. The Negro cultivates the greater portions of the lands of the State, and our prosperity and progress demand that he should receive the very best training in agriculture and in the mechanical arts. I most heartily indorse your proposed publication and am sure it will meet with success and supply to your race needed and useful learning and instruction on the great subject of agriculture.

(Signed) EMMETT O'NEAL,
Governor.

MISSISSIPPI

Executive Department,
Jackson, Dec. 30, 1913.

Editor Negro Farmer: I am interested in everything that pertains to the South, and both the whites and those of your race ought to cultivate the soil with intelligence, dilligence, and not in a haphazard way. The man who tills the soil, be he white or black, should do so with the idea of getting the most there is from the land with the least damage to it. Intelligence is needed in farming as much as it is in the practice of law, medicine, or any of the professions; and this idea ought to be instilled into the Negro and white races.

Respectfully,
(Signed) EARL BREWER,
Governor.

VIRGINIA

Governor Wm. Hodges Mann sent a splendid and encouraging letter which he addressed "To the Colored Farmers of the United States." His whole letter expressed his interest and that of Virginia in the welfare of Negro farmers and in improving the agricultural methods of the whole South.

1974. '60

WILL THE COLORED FARMER HOLD HIS OWN IN AGRICULTURE?

During last month, the following items were printed in a Southern daily newspaper:

"The arrival of nineteen large families at Dakota last week has transformed one of Georgia's oldest Negro tenant plantations into a splendid high-class community. Twenty more families are due this month. * *

"To farming, which has been the chief pursuit of the people of that section for the past ten years, will be added soon two other important industries, that of merchandising and stock-raising.

"On the pasture lands of these farms can be seen the finest breeds of cattle and hogs, and in the barnyards the best Percheron stock has displaced to a large extent the Western mule.

"Dakota is situated in the very heart of these farms and already plans have been made for comfortable farm houses to be constructed on the various tracts and for a number of residences and business houses to be built in the town proper. With these institutions added to those that are already there this will undoubtedly be one of the most prosperous sections of the country."

The families referred to are white; and because the event which is chronicled above is happening more often than is apparent to the careless observer, the Negro Farmer takes this occasion to sound a note of warning to colored agriculturists.

Not a great while ago, the editor of a very influential white paper in the South said, in effect, that the Negro must either improve his methods of farming or get off the land and give place to those who are progressive farmers. It would seem from the news items above and others similar to them that are appearing in different places that the editor was speaking "as one having authority."

There are certain points in the quoted piece of news that deserve careful attention: (1) White tenants succeeded Negro tenants. (2) The coming of the former is said to have changed the community "into a splendid high-class community." (3) The results of the change from white to Negro tenants are said to be an increase of stock-raising, including the raising of fine breeds of cattle, hogs, and mules; and plans for the building of comfortable farm houses.

While it is gratifying to note from the census reports that the Negro farmers of the South increased their farm acreage from over thirty-eight millions to over forty-two millions, during the period of 1900-1910, the increase does not mean that there has been a proportionate increase in the efficiency of the Negro farmer. The increase may be and doubtless has been due largely to the closing of other doors against Negro workmen, as well as to a growing appreciation of the value of good farming; and despite the Negro's adaptability to agricultural pursuits, despite the fact that it is generally stated that his labors on the farm cannot be dispensed with, it is a fact that great numbers of Negroes can and will be displaced in agricultural pursuits in case they do not "wake up" and join the new movement to get the most from the soil in a way that will not impoverish it.

It may interest those who feel that the Negro cannot be supplanted in the South to know that careful students of agricultural problems are beginning to note the increase of white farm labor in that section. Writing in the Agricultural Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture for 1910, Mr. George K. Holmes, Chief of the Division of Production and Distribution, Bureau of Statistics, said:

"The Negro is still a necessity to Southern agriculture, but he is gradually yielding his place to white labor. One of the old arguments in favor of slavery was that a white man could not work in a field under the Southern sun, and it is still a common belief in the North that Southern farm labor is performed almost exclusively by Negroes. This, however, is not the fact. More than half the cotton crop is raised by white labor; in Texas three-fourths or more. In the sugar and rice fields white labor is common, and in some places all but exclusive."

And where we are inclined to comfort ourselves with the belief that white people do not like to work on farms, it may be well to remember that in 1900, for every 20 Negroes in the United States who were engaged in gainful agricultural pursuits, there were 80 white persons doing the same; and for every 30 Negroes working on the farm there were 70 white persons working with their hands on farms in the same way.

Just as the Negro lost ground and was replaced by white workmen in fifteen of the manufacturing pursuits from 1890 to 1900, just so he can be "uncomfortably crowded," if not pushed out of the main agricultural pursuits; because the world is moving and the impossibilities of yesterday and the now easily become the common things of tomorrow.

In the second place, it seemed taken for granted that a group of Negro farm tenants constitute a low-class community, and white tenants a high-class community. If this is true, here is a broad hint to our colored tenants to begin striving to see if there is really such a difference between the two classes of workmen, and if there is, to try to change conditions.

The results spoken of under the third head above, that is, the beginning of stock-raising and the building of comfortable and nice appearing homes, give some of the particulars in which it is claimed that white tenants are more desirable than colored.

All these things are worthy of present study, and colored farmers, like other classes of our population, must begin thinking of results that will come ten, twenty, thirty, and more years ahead; and we must lay to heart the statement that there are other farmers who can and, if need be, will, make the South blossom as the rose and will succeed where we have failed.

WINNERS FROM THE SOIL

COLORED HEROES OF THE FARM

Twenty-two years ago Jonas W. Thomas, a Negro of Marlborough County, South Carolina, began his career as a farmer by buying an old horse for $40.75, and by renting thirty acres of South Carolina land for 1,400 pounds of lint cotton. After four years of hard work and close saving he was able to buy a mule for $69 and also sixty-seven acres of land. Then he began renting and working farms which belonged to other men. Gradually he was able to buy the land he had been renting. He also found it worth his while to open a commissary.

Now Thomas lives in a twelve-room house and employs on his $40,000 plantation thirty-nine families, consisting of 189 men, women and children. He grows a variety of crops, including cotton, corn, and some garden truck, and raises his own horses, mules, cows and hogs. He has received as much as $31,000 for his cotton crop alone—400 bales of long staple. On an average he has saved $3,000 a year for twenty-two years. All that he now has on his farm is his own, "directly and indirectly," he affirms with justifiable pride. In a single year he had borrowed of one local bank and repaid $23,000. "Good credit," so Thomas says, "explains a fair share of my success."

—o—

Hutchinson, Kan., Dec. 20.—Mrs. S. E. Hey, wife of a farmer of Jackson Township, Edwards County, was left a widow with a family of small children.

She stuck to the farm and determined to rear her family there. This season, without the assistance of a man on the place, aided only by her two boys, aged eleven and twelve years, this plucky Kansas widow prepared the ground and sowed 200 acres of wheat, driving the disk and drill herself.

In addition she prepared twenty acres for spring crops, put up three stacks of hay, harvested ten acres of kafir, hauled from town ten tons of alfalfa, 350 bushels of wheat and the winter's supply of food and took care of twelve head of horses and twenty-two head of steers.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jefferson, of Cape May, New Jersey, had fifty prize-winning chickens and one hundred prize-winning pigeons at the exhibition held recently in Atlantic City. Mr. Jefferson has bred and raised the only aigrette pigeons in America. He has a stock of 1,900 chickens, pigeons, rabbits, and guinea pigs. Mr. Jefferson is a member of the American Poultry Associatoin.—S. W. Christian Advocate.

WHY MY CHICKENS LIVE

BY MRS. C. J. CALLOWAY

(The writer of this article is a successful poultry raiser, selling chickens, not only in Alabama, but shipping them into Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida. Twice her chickens won first prize at the Agricultural State Fair at Montgomery, Alabama; and they always win first prize at the Macon County Fairs. Her success simply shows what any colored woman can do in poultry raising if she is willing to pay the price.—Editor.)

MRS. C. J. CALLOWAY

I have been raising Barred Plymouth Rock chickens for more than eight years. During this time, I have lost very few chickens from disease. I generally raise from one hundred to one hundred and fifty chickens every year.

My Location

My home consists of thirteen acres of land on the suburbs of the town of Tuskegee, Alabama, with dwelling house, barn, and poultry house situated near the center of the land. My chickens have free range and plenty of shade.

Poultry House

I have a comfortable poultry house, one that affords plenty of fresh air and sunshine. My poultry house is only used as a roosting place. The hens lay and sit in places provided on the outside. This helps to keep the mites and lice out of the poultry house; and, too, I keep my poultry house free from mites and lice by whitewashing it inside and out, at least twice a year. The droppings are cleaned out every day in the year, with few exceptions. Lime is sprinkled about the house and yard two or three times a week.

Culling the Flock

During early fall I kill or sell all hens three years old and over. It does not pay to keep old stock on the yard. Their eggs are not so fertile, and if their eggs hatch the young chickens are generally weak.

Feeding

I have said that my chickens have free range. They scratch and find lots of waste about the place, yet I feed my grown up stock regularly twice a day. In the morning I feed grain scattered in leaves. This makes the flock scratch and hustle about. On very cold mornings I feed a warm mash made of wheat bran or shorts. At night, I feed mixed grain—corn, chops, oats, wheat millet, and about all that they will eat. We keep rape, oats, turnips, collards, and rutabagas growing that the chickens may have plenty of green food. The drinking vessels are kept clean and filed with fresh water. Sometimes I have skimmed milk that I can give them.

Mating

I mate one strong, healthy cockerel to every ten hens, at least two weeks before I am ready to set or sell settings of eggs. It is not well to use a cockerel that has been seriously sick, although he may seem to have fully recovered.

The Setting Eggs

I gather my eggs daily, separating and placing the eggs suitable for hatching in one basket and the ones for table use in another. The setting eggs are kept in a room with moderate temperature.

Care of Sitting Hen

I feed and water the sitting hen daily. Corn is the best food for her. With the strong healthy parent stock and with the careful attention that I give the setting eggs and hen, I always hatch out strong, healthy, vigorous chickens.

Feeding Young Chickens

I wait thirty-six or forty-eight hours to feed the little chickens, after they are hatched. Earlier feeding gives bowel trouble. At the end of thirty-six or forty-eight hours I have ready some finely mashed charcoal and grit that I give them first. Then I feed dry oatmeal or dry corn bread, crumbled in small pieces. I find this dry feeding far better than wet sloppy feed. I feed them a little every two hours until they are three or four weeks old. I keep clean water where they can drink without getting into it with their feet.

Care of Young Chickens

I keep the mother hen confined in a coop for several days, letting the little ones run about the coop until they gain strength to follow the mother. When the chicks are four or five weeks old, I begin feeding small grain and increase the supply as they grow older. I am constantly watching their heads and necks for lice. Such pests mean death to little chickens. I raise ninety per cent of the chickens I hatch.

Loss From Disease

I do not say that I never lose a chicken from disease. I have lost a few now and then from sorehead, one or two from roup, and occasionally I lose a few young chickens from bowel trouble. My chickens have never had cholera or limber neck.

Fighting Disease

I notice closely when the chickens come from their roosting place. If I see one looking droopy, I take it at once to the chicken hospital, that I have provided in some secluded spot on my premises. There I give it special attention, studying the symptoms of its trouble so as not only to save that particular chicken, but to fight the very appearance of the disease among the other part of my flock. If I lose my patient, I give it a decent burial by burying it so deep in the earth that nothing will scratch it up and give the other chickens a chance at its carcass.

I think why my chickens live, is because of a high state of vitality maintained in care of the setting eggs, by painstaking feeding of the young chicks, by precautions when disease appears on the yard, the fighting of insects, mites, and lice, and everlastingly cleaning up.

Mrs. C. J. Calloway,
Tuskegee, Ala.

Sowing or Planting Time for Several Crops During February

(Yearbook U. S. Agricultural Department 1910)

	SPRING WHEAT	SPRING SOWN OATS	SPRING SOWN BARLEY	CORN
Kansas	Feb. 27	.....	.....	.....
Arkansas	.....	Feb. 15.	.....	.....
Georgia	.....	" 6.	.....	.....
Mississippi	.....	" 1.	.....	.....
North Carolina	.....	" 21.	.....	
Oklahoma	.....	" 17.	Feb. 26.	
Tennessee	.....	" 22.	.....	
Florida	.....	.....	.....	
Louisiana	.....	.....	....	
Texas	.....	.....	.....	

The planting becomes general about two wee than these first dates given here; and the oses about one month later.

If you know of any colored man, wo or child who has met with success on farm or who is doing any unusual thing dealing with his farm, live stock, garden, orchard, or what not, send his address to this paper and ask him to write to it also, so that the other colored farmers may profit by his example. Pictures of successful colored persons who till the soil will encourage others and this paper wishes to publish a number of them this year.

In another column will be found the "Farmers' Dictionary." Look there every week for the definition of some of the "big words" that many farm lecturers and writers on agricultural subjects constantly use. Also you will find there explanations of some of the things that you read in your daily or weekly newspaper but did not understand.

Get acquainted with your wife and children just as soon as you can, this year; find out what there is about the farm life that they do not like; and, if possible, see how much you can do to satisfy them. There's no use to talk about better farming until those who help you farm are better satisfied. In the meantime, write The Negro Farmer and tell it what dissatisfies your family.

THE NEGRO FARMER

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All correspondence should be directed to The Negro Farmer, and not to any particular person connected with it

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 1914.

"The Negro farmers and agricultural laborers of the United States are to have a paper devoted to their interests and to those of all other persons interested in this class of workers.

The new periodical will be called "The Negro Farmer," and will published in the village of Greenwood, near the Tuskegee Institute. So far as known, it will be the first paper to be exclusively devoted to the interest of that large number of persons of the Negro race who till the soil.

A corporation has been organized to publish the paper. The Board of Directors and Officers are as follows:

Booker T. Washington, President.
ct J. Scott, Vice-President.
s H. Gibson, Secretary.
en Logan, Treasurer.
rt R. Taylor.

ication for the charter will be made ; and it is planned to begin publishing aper early in February.

e Board of Directors have decided to oy the well-known writer on economic estions—Mr. Isaac Fisher, as Editor, and Mr. C. B. Hosmer as Business Manager—both Tuskegee graduates.

Mr. Fisher is the Tuskegee graduate who holds the distinction of having won more prizes in National essay prize contests than any other member of the race; indeed, it is doubtful whether any other writer of any race has taken so many first prizes on different literary subjects in the contests with the best brain of the nation as has been true of this first editor of the first agricultural journal ever published wholly in the interest of Negro farmers.

Mr. Fisher brings to the work, therefore, (1) a trained and logical mind; (2) broad experience in getting at the truth and root of questions; (3) the reputation of knowing what he is talking about; (4) unusual ability, both as writer and speaker, to represent; speak to and for; and encourage with the dignity which their profession demands, the great body of colored people who till the soil. He will focus all his powers of research and analysis upon those questions which have to do with the conditions and needs of Negro farmers.

The Business Manager, Mr. Hosmer, took the agricultural course at Tuskegee Institute; and until the acceptance of his new work with the "Negro Farmer," was one of the Financial Secretaries of Tuskegee in the North and, likewise, comes to his duties well equipped.

The time is ripe and it is fitting that such a publication as the Negro Farmer be launched. An appeal to the records will justify these statements: According to the census of 1900, 58 per cent of all Negroes in the United States were engaged in agricultural pursuits, leaving but 42 per cent of the colored people in all other occupations. To be more exact, the proportions of the colored people in each of the five great groups of occupations were as follows:

In Agriculture, 58.3 per cent.
In the Professions, 1.2 per cent.
In Domestic and Personal Service, 23.8 per cent.
In Trade and Transportation, 7.7 per cent.
In Manufacturing and Mechanical Pursuits, 9 per cent.

A little reflection will show that the major part of all the newspapers and periodicals of the race are devoted (1) to the general interest of all the groups just named, and (2) to the especial interests of the professional class which represented but 1.2 per cent of the Negro population; while the agricultural group—the largest of all—has been almost entirely neglected by the periodical press. Negro farmers are beginning to read agricultural papers, and these farmers numbered 893,384 in 1910, not including the ordinary agricultural laborers. But there has been no publication that exactly suited the needs of this class of the population.

The "Negro Farmer" will supply this need, for while dealing with the broad problems which concern all races, it will conduct a continuous inquiry into the problems which specially confront and are peculiar to Negro farmers; will seek to suggest remedies for existing evils; and will seek in every way to help elevate agriculture among Negroes to the dignity of a profession to the end that those of the race who till the soil may come into possession of some of that prosperity, comfort and happiness which belong to all people.

The paper will seek to bring about closer co-operation between the white landowners and the colored people who rent their land.

It proposes to neglect no one of the agencies that ministers to the well-being of the farmer, his wife, and their children; but it will strive to give publicity to the real, big and fundamental results obtained by colored farmers, and will interpret for these pioneers of progress and prosperity the agricultural happenings of the world.

The movement augurs well and is of more than passing interest to every section of the country where colored farmers live and to the South in particular; and in view of the fact that the number of Negro farmers has steadily increased since 1890, it may not be too much to expect that these colored farmers, gradually learning to increase the production of their farms, will yet play no small part in helping to reduce the high cost of living.

In so far, therefore, as this result is highly probable, the Negro farmers are of economic interest to the nation at large; and a paper to help lead and indicate intelligent action in those problems which puzzle and vex the colored farmer is, if not the one thing needful, certainly one of the important needs."—From The Tuskegee Student, January 10, 1914.

An Evidence of Racial Unity

The Negro Farmer is practically the only racial publication, so far as we know, that has been started with a fully subscribed and paid up capital sufficient to put it on a solid foundation. Every dollar of the money was subscribed and paid by colored people. Practically every person who was invited to subscribe, responded with his check. The only embarrassment experienced was, there were many who wanted to subscribe but could not do so because all the stock was sold before they had an opportunity to subscribe.

This fact indicates that the race believes in itself, in its ability to do things, and is willing and ready to stand together and work together when there is occasion for it.

Cheap Whisky and the Colored Farmer

Unfortunately, not a few white land owners and colored land owners seek to have their farms succeed by either selling whisky or giving away whisky to their colored tenants. This, from an economic point of view, is not only shortsighted, but morally wrong. Such practices defeat themselves.

We know of a case where a large land owner imported at one time about five hundred dollars' worth of whisky, and either sold it or gave it away on his plantation. This land owner kept up this practice for a number of years. The result was that it demoralized his laborers. They became worthless, rowdy, and were continually in trouble. Within a few years the farm had to be sold for debt. This is the usual result.

Not a few land owners pursue the policy of letting colored tenants have whisky freely for the reason that they think this will make their farms popular and result in getting plenty of labor.

The better policy to pursue is to teach the colored laborers to be sober, industrious, economical, saving, and to educate their children. A farmer with ambition and right intentions is worth more than a farmer who is given to liquor-drinking. It would mean dollars in the pockets of every white and black land owner if whisky could be kept off every plantation in the South during the present year and hereafter.

Tell The Negro Farmer about your troubles and discouragements on the farm. Write a letter today and ask for any information concerning your problems. Don't mind the writing and spelling. Tell the Editor about the things that make you feel like dropping your plow for good; or if you feel encouraged, ask for more light on the thing that particularly interests you.

BEING KIND TO THE SOIL

BY GEO. W. CARVER, M. S.
Director Tuskegee Agricultural Experiment Station

G. W. CARVER

Unkindness to anything means an injustice done to that thing. If I am unkind to you I do you an injustice, or wrong you in some way. On the other hand, if I try to assist you in every way that I can to make a better citizen and in every way to do my very best for you, I am kind to you.

The above principles apply with equal force to the soil. The farmer whose soil produces less every year, is unkind to it in some way; that is, he is not doing by it what he should; he is robbing it of some substance it must have, and he becomes, therefore, a soil robber rather than a progressive farmer.

In the matter of soil fertility, there are four fundamental laws which every tiller of the soil must understand if the highest results are to be obtained:

1st, "A soil can be termed fertile only when it contains all the materials requisite for the nutrition of plants in the required quantity and in the proper form."

2nd, "With every crop a portion of these ingredients is removed. A part of this portion is again added from the inexhaustible store of the atmosphere; another part, however, is lost forever if not replaced by man."

3rd, "The fertility of the soil remains unchanged, if all the ingredients of a crop are given back to the land. Such a restitution is affected by manure."

"The manure produced in the course of husbandry is not sufficient to maintain permanently the fertility of a farm; it lacks the constituents which are annually exported in the shape of grain, hay, milk, and live stock."

Again we must understand that a soil may be poor chemically, physically, or both, and that the physical poverty is of just as much importance as the chemical poverty.

By physical poverty we mean anything that hinders crop production that we can remedy by use of tools, etc., such as—

A hard soil.

Too wet soil.

Too dry soil, and a number of other conditions that will come to us by experience and thought.

When we speak of chemical poverty we invariably have in mind the restoration of fertility by the application of the various kinds of chemical fertilizers we purchase in sacks.

Observation, study, and practice have taught the more thoughtful farmer that it is not only possible and practicable to keep his ground covered with some kind of crop, from year to year, but if properly done the soil will become richer, by reason of this constant tillage.

He also realizes that the preparation of the soil is the prime essential of heavy crop production, and that it is safe to say that fully two-thirds of our farmers fail in this particular, because they do not broadcast their land in the fall and do not plow deep enough.

Advantages

(1) Deep plowing (which should be from 8 to 9 inches) brings to the surface plant food that the rain and other agencies have carried beyond the feeding roots of the average farm crop.

(2) If the plowing is properly done in the fall, it puts stalks, leaves, greens, and whatever other accumulations there may be on the surface of the ground underneath, where it will rapidly decay, and become food ready for the plant to take up and use at once, and this humus will also be in the best possible condition to perform its most important double duty as an absorbent of the soluble plant food, and an improver of the soil's physical condition.

(3) Fall plowing destroys many insects, and harmful weed seeds by turning them up to the surface where the birds, etc., can get them, as well as burying others into the earth where they perish. This is especially true of many fungus diseases, such as the rusts of cotton, smuts of corn, oats, etc.

(4) Deep plowing increases the water-holding capacity of the soil, and prevents many heavy washes.

Caution. If the soil has been plowed shallow for a number of years do not plow the nine inches at once, but just two inches deeper every time it is broken until the nine-inch depth is reached. Remember also that brick clay, pipe clay, and hog wallow land must not be worked when too wet, or it will injure it beyond repair for two or three years.

Again, the more thoughtful ones are aware that any one crop system is disastrous to the average farmer, and those who are living independently and happily on the farm are those who diversify their crops, or in other words, raise some cotton, corn, peas, peanuts, hay, potatoes, sugar cane, garden vegetables, —in short, everything needed to eat on the farm, and at the same time have a surplus to sell.

Neither does he forget that there is an intimate and inseparable relationship existing between the fertility of the soil and the stock kept on the farm. Plenty of well-fed stock, with the manure well cared for and returned to the soil means increased fertility to the soil, more home comforts to the farmer, a general uplift to the community in which he lives, and represents the highest type of kindness to the soil.

THE "BIG WORDS" AND EVENTS EXPLAINED

FARMERS' DICTIONARY

(The colored farmer is beginning to read news and farm papers and attend farm schools and institutes, but often he does not understand some of the "big words" used. This "dictionary" is to help him.)

Legumes, or leguminous plants, refers to such plants as peas, beans, clovers, vetches, lupines, beggar weeds, alfalfa, ground plum, etc.

Crop Rotation means the cultivation of several different crops on the same piece of land before it is again planted with the original or first crop. For instance, corn or a root crop like turnips, is followed by a grain crop, as wheat, oats, or barley, and this by a leguminous crop like clover or peas. Such rotation keeps the soil fertile.

Forage Crops are such as provide food for animals, especially for horses and cattle, as grass, hay, corn, pasture, etc.

Intensive Farming means putting more labor, capital, and intelligence into working the land one has and making it produce more rather than getting more land—getting more land to increase production is called extensive farming.

Humus is the black matter in the soil that is formed by the partial rottening or decay of such vegetable and animal matter as plants and common farm fertilizers from the stables.

The Tariff and the Farmer. The Underwood-Simmons Tariff put the following articles on the free list, that is, they may enter the United States from foreign countries without paying any duty or tax—free barb wire, wire for baling hay, hoop and band iron, horseshoe and other nails, fertilizers, cream separators, agricultural machinery and implements of every kind, including wagons and carts, and cotton bagging. At the same time, corn, wheat, rye, flour, sugar, wool, and food animals also come in free.

The New Currency and Banking Law—Its Purpose. Quoting President Wilson, "The power to control and guide and direct the credits of the country is the power to say who shall and who shall not build up the industries of the country, in which direction they shall be built and in which direction they shall not be built."

Accordingly, the President gave it to be the duty of the Government to revise the system of banking in the United States so that a wealthy and powerful few bankers cannot accomplish the results mentioned in the paragraph above.

INDICTMENT OF NEGRO FARMERS

(CUT This Out. Paste on Cardboard and Hang Where the Whole Family Can Read it all the Year.)

Written in language plain, and found in the Constitution of the United States, is the provision that where an accusation is brought against any one, "the accused shall enjoy the right to * * * be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; and "to be confronted with the witnesses against him." (Sixth Amendment to U. S. Constitution.)

This paper proposes, as one of the first steps to be taken in advancing the interests of Negro farmers, to make a digest of such charges as have been officially made against Colored Farmers so that the latter may see themselves as others see them, and take steps to correct such faults as are pointed out, if they exist. If the criticisms are not just, we shall forget them and press forward.

The Indictments:

Before the United States Industrial Commission, it was charged—

A. That Negro Farmers are indolent (lazy) and unreliable.

B. That they are incompetent; that not only are they unwilling to learn to grow any crop besides cotton, but they will not exert themselves to learn how to use improved farming tools and machines; and that they have no interest in the land which they till.

C. That Negroes can and will not properly direct a farm without white supervision.

D. That they are cruel to stock.

E. That they have a low standard of living; that is, they do not want much and are content to live in the simplest and most uncomfortable homes without any real desire to better their conditions.

F. That colored farmers are restless and move from place to place—from plantation to plantation; and that in addition to this, they have a disposition to leave the farm altogether and flock to the cities.

G. That Negro farmers and farm hands are improvident; that is, they go into debt, if permitted, and spend all the money that comes into their hands, never saving anything, and "living from hand to mouth" all the time.

H. That they drink too much liquor and commit too many crimes.

I. That they will not take care of tools.

So much for the accusations.

At stated times during the year, this paper will examine and discuss each one of the charges made above. In the meantime, read over the list, think over it, and talk it over with the thoughtful colored farmers in your community, so that you will be ready for the discussions which are to be had.

WHITE BOYS TURNING TO THE STUDY OF AGRICULTURE

NEGRO BOYS MUST WAKE UP

Our colored boys on the farms often feel that they are the only ones who are expected to learn and practice farming, and they do not dream that the sons of any other persons besides farmers would think of going to college to study agriculture.

If they were familiar with the facts, however, as they exist in almost all of the great agricultural colleges of the North, East, and West, they would know that white students whose parents follow all kinds of occupations crowd into the agricultural courses and are preparing themselves for the rewards which are certain to come to the tillers of the soil when once the best methods of making agriculture pay are employed all over the country.

To give a concrete example of the extent to which various occupations are represented in the agricultural courses of many schools, the following information relative to the freshman class of the College of Agriculture of the Ohio State University has been gathered. The different occupations contributed to the class as follows:

Farmers 224 or 56 per ct.		Lawyer	5
Artists	1	Lumber Dealer	2
Banker	2	Liveryman	1
Brewer	1	Machinist	4
Car Inspector	1	Photographer	1
Carpenter	5	Manufacturer	16
Chemist	1	Merchant	21
Clerk	3	Minister	4
Coal & Oil Operators	3	Poultrymen	2
Collector	1	Printer	2
Contractor	3	Physician	14
Civil Service	12	Railroading	4
Druggist	4	Real Estate	2
Engineer	8	Reporter	1
Florist	10	Salesmen	7
Housekeeper	1	Stock Dealer	3
Huckster	1	Tailor	1
Insurance	1	Teacher	6
Jeweler	2	Telephone Business	1

This showing, it must be remembered, is for but one class in one college; and it is certain that figures gathered on the same subject in all the other colleges where agriculture is taught would show practically the same condition of affairs.

There is a broad field for young men and women who have received agricultural training; indeed the demand for trained men in agriculture is greater than the schools are able to supply; and this is true both of white and colored persons. The United States Government and the State Experiment Stations find it difficult to retain their agricultural experts—so great is the demand for them from private sources; and it has been found that the number of Negro graduates from agricultural schools does not begin to meet the demand for such persons, and the salaries paid them are very much higher—sometimes twice higher—than those paid to teachers of other branches of knowledge.

It will pay the farm boys and girls to think about these facts in deciding as to the school they will attend and the trade or profession they will follow.

What is "Better Farming?"

The colored farmers of the South, in particular, have been tilling the soil for quite a while now, as men count time. Very naturally they feel that they know "a little something" about farming; and, yet, they find themselves criticised as being poor farmers and they are advised to do better farming than they have done; but we do not always explain just what we mean by the phrase, better farming. Below will be found a list of things which the United States Department of Agriculture regards as the elements of better farming (Farmers' Bulletin 319):

(1) Better drainage of the soil.

(2) A deeper and more thoroughly pulverized seed bed; deep fall breaking (plowing) with implements that will not bring the subsoil to the surface.

(3) The use of seed of the best variety, intelligently selected and carefully stored.

(4) In cultivated crops, give the rows and the plants in the rows a space suited to the plant, the soil, and the climate.

(5) Intensive tillage (that is almost continuous tillage) during the growing period of the crops.

(6) The importance of a high content of humus in the soil. The use of legumes, barnyard manure, farm refuse, and commercial fertilizers.

(7) The value of crop rotation and a winter cover crop on Southern farms.

(8) The accomplishing of more work in a day on the farm by using more horse-power and better implements.

(9) The importance of increasing the farm-stock to the extent of utilizing all the waste products and idle lands of the farm.

(10) The production of all food required for the men and animals on the farm.

(11) The keeping of an account with each farm product, in order to know from which the gain or loss arises.

The Home Garden

Many of the common vegetables are so easily grown * * * that every farmer should set aside enough land for a vegetable garden, where sufficient produce can be raised to supply the family throughout the season.

Among the most easily grown vegetables are asparagus, beans, beets, carrots, cucumbers, egg-plants, kohl-rabi, lettuce, muskmelons, onions, peas, peppers, potatoes, pumpkins, radishes, squashes, tomatoes, turnips, and watermelons.

A well-kept vegetable garden on the farm is one means of lessening the cost of living, and during the summer it provides a large variety of foods that a farmer could not otherwise afford, and even during the winter, if proper care be taken to preserve them.

Asparagus, beans, cucumbers, peas, pumpkins, squashes, beets, and tomatoes may be put up in glass jars and preserved satisfactorily. Winter muskmelons, pumpkins, squashes, and many of the root crops can be kept by storing them in pits or cellars.—Bureau of Plant Industry—Circular 110, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Mutual Interests of the Southern Land Owners and Negro Farmers

"In the gain or loss of one race, all the rest have equal claim," wrote Lowell; and he stated a truth of universal application. It is especially true relative to the condition and efficiency of colored farmers. Whatever is done to help and to educate these farmers so that they will better understand and be more willing to maintain the fertility of the soil by the employment of new cropping systems and the use of live stock; so that they will introduce and more generally use such crops as clovers, alfalfa, winter grains, and corn; and so that they will understand better how to introduce business system into the operation of their farms—anything done to bring these results to pass among Negro farmers will be found to be of help to the white land owners throughout the South.

This is not a matter of race, but is connected with the economic prosperity of both the Negro farmer, tenant, or laborer, and the owner of the soil. It is a matter of no small concern that the soils of the South be not permitted to lose their fertility, to leach, wash, or sunbake; but if the man who tills the lands does not understand how to prevent these things from being done, they are certain to happen.

It is sincerely hoped that the re-awakening in the South will include a greater interest in the education of colored farmers on the part of the land-owners and that broader knowledge of farming on the part of colored farmers which must make for increased production and conservation of the agricultural resources of this section. As Governor Emmett O'Neal of Alabama very wisely states in his letter published elsewhere in this paper, "The Negro cultivates the greater portions of the lands of the State, and our prosperity and progress demand the he should receive the very best training in agriculture and the mechanical arts." This is particularly true of the Southern States; and it will be found, as Governor O'Neal further states, that it will be useless to undertake to teach the white man scientific agriculture and ignore the Negro. Our interests are the same.

ATTACKING THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

Most successful farmers are careful to have a good garden. The part devoted to table vegetables and flowers is usually carefully fenced to keep out chickens, dogs, and stray animals, and the soil is made rich with barnyard compost. The women of the household usually take considerable interest in the garden, and may direct its management. It should therefore be located as conveniently as possible to the dwelling house, but not in the front yard.

Too little attention is given, as a rule, to planning the cropping system of the garden. The tomatoes, cabbages, beans, peas, etc., must not be grown on the same spot each season, but, like other crops, must be rotated to prevent the accumulation in the soil of injurious insects, fungi, and bacteria. With a little planning a succession of vegetables, fruits, and flowers can be provided for the spring, summer, and fall, with a considerable supply for canning and for winter use, and it is particularly important to see that the seed comes from a thoroughly reliable dealer and is of the very best. In the same way, the fruit trees should be ordered only from reliable nurserymen, the varieties being carefully selected.

Fruits and vegetables not only increase the healthfulness and attractiveness of the daily bill of fare, but they save a great deal of expense, and are far better than the stale garden stuff and the inferior grades of canned goods from the stores. Farm workers thrive better, do more work, and are happier and more contented when well and properly fed. The farmer who sets a good table, well supplied with fruits and vegetables, is making the highest possible bid to attract and keep good farm help.—From Yearbook, U. S. Department of Agriculture for 1908.

ALL LABOR CANNOT BE BANISHED FROM THE FARM

Let it be decided once and for all that life and labor on any farm—in any line of human endeavor, for that matter—cannot be turned into a "picnic." No sensible person expects to banish all hard work from the farm, for there, as elsewhere, men eat their bread in the sweat of their faces and must do so to the end of the chapter.

But it is possible to reduce the errors which make rural life barren and fruitless, and it has been shown again and again that country life may be made even more beautiful than life in the hothouses which men call cities and towns. Science, brain, and common sense have joined hands to help the farmer and his family solve the problems which have troubled their minds and discouraged their hearts. Enlightened governments all over the world are beginning to see their duty to those who till the soil as never before; and as a result, streams of information are flowing from the experiment stations of all progressive lands toward the farms of many a hill-side and plain.

There is an agricultural awakening everywhere. White men who till the soil or who own the land that is tilled are catching the spirit whose teachings lay emphasis upon intelligent farms and whose latest battle cry is "better farms, better homes, more gardens, more comforts for the body, more social and spiritual satisfaction for the soul."

Will the colored farmer join the new movement? It is not left to his choice. He must join it or be forced out of the fields. But he will join it voluntarily when once the necessity is shown to him and the path to better things on the farm pointed out. To do these last two things is the mission of this paper.

The American Magazine for January contians a photograph of J. G. Groves, the "Potato King," and of his twenty-two-room home, and a description of his 500-acre farm which is valued at about $115,000.

THE BUSINESS CHAT

Mr. Farmer, we want a good live agent in your community. We need a Negro Farmer agent in every community, and offer liberal commissions. Be active in helping to make your community a "reading" community and at the same time earn some good cash returns. Such representatives are to collect subscriptions in the local territory and forward same to this paper. Be sure to write us for terms.

There are three classes of men in the world today,—men who buy, men who sell, and advertising men who bring them together.

Pretty soon, we will be receiving various inquiries from our friends, requesting us to tell them where to get so and so; and so those of you who have something to sell, such as poultry, butter, eggs, feed, livestock, machinery, etc., ought to start advertising now, while people are purchasing their annual supplies. Remember that "one drop of ink makes thousands think." People will not know that you have anything to sell unless you tell them. The Negro Farmer should become your advertising medium, your mouth-piece, as it were, and really, through it you have an opportunity of reaching those who have not been reached by any publication. Here, then, is your chance. Let us help you dispose of your products, permit us to aid you to make a better living.

Remember now that whisky and fraud advertisements are not wanted. No one will be allowed to guarantee that he can "straighten hair" through these columns.

In writing to advertisers, always say, "I saw your 'ad' in The Negro Farmer."

Dr. Booker T. Washington is First Subscriber to The Negro Farmer

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Dear Sir:

Understanding that it is the policy of the management not to send THE NEGRO FARMER to stockholders or anyone else unless it is paid for, enclosed I send you One Dollar, being my subscription for one year.

I wish you great success in connection with this paper.

Yours truly,
(Signed) BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

Don't Miss the Next Issue of The Negro Farmer

Among other good things in store for our readers will be a discussion of the subject, "Growing Corn Without Cultivating It." The United States Department of Agriculture has carried on a number of experiments all over the country to see if this can be done. The conclusions will be given in the next issue of this paper. "Work being done by the Federal government for Negro Farmers;" "Dairy Opportunities and Advantages;" "Starting Now to Secure Next Year's Supply of Home-Cured Hams and Other Meat;" "The Better Home for the Better Farmer—some suggestions concerning the things that should be in and around such a home," and "The Colored Farmer and His Church—one thing it can do for him during 1914," are only a few of the strong articles that will be presented in the next number, which will be out on February the fourteenth.

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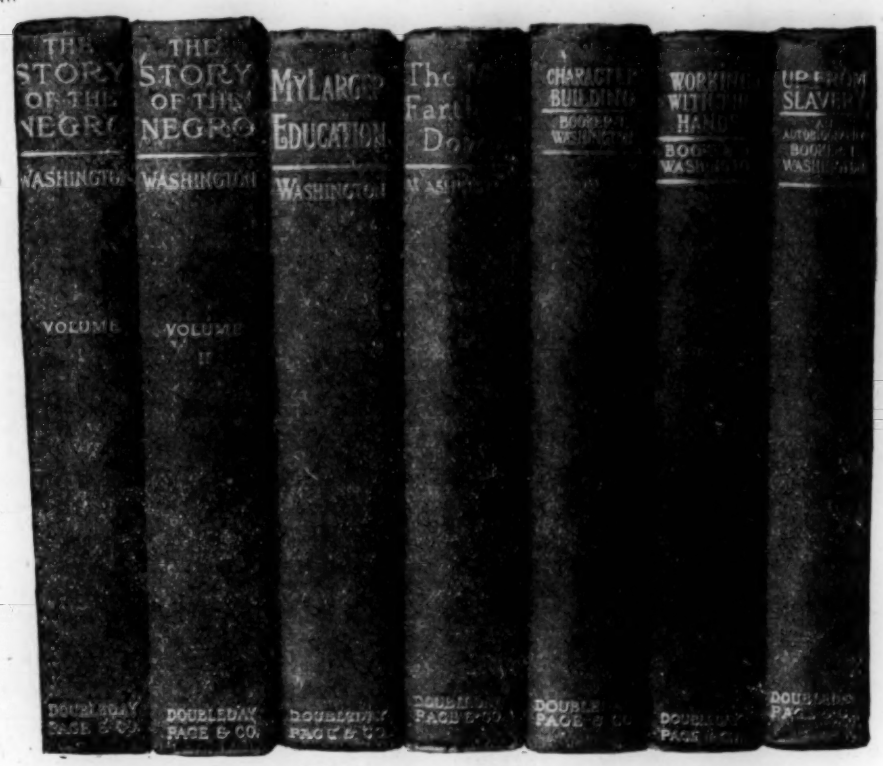

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Enclosed please find two dollars, for which please send at once your Tuskegee Edition of Booker T. Washington's Works. After examination, if I am satisfied with the books I agree to send you $1.00 per month for six months. If not satisfied, I agree to return the books in good order within five days, and you are to return my two dollars. Title not to pass to me until the books are fully paid for.

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THE NEGRO FARMER

Something New: Something Needed

A Paper That Helps People to Become Better Farmers is an Aid to the Church, the School and to the Secular and Religious Papers

It has been decided to publish at Tuskegee Institute Post Office, Every-Other-Week for the present, a national farm paper to be known as THE NEGRO FARMER. It will be published in the interest of Negro landowners, tenant farmers and of those who employ Negro labor. There is no other strictly farm newspaper in the world devoted to the interest of Negro farmers.

Many of the white farm newspapers enjoy huge circulations and there is no reason why a farm paper in the interest of Negroes should not prove equally successful. In fact, occupying an exclusive field it should enjoy a success far beyond that of the usual farm publication. It is proposed to circulate this paper among the 2,000,000 black farmers of the United States. The paper will be eight pages, of about the size of "The Country Gentleman."

DR. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON STATES:

The Tuskegee Institute has no financial interest or control over this new publication, but some of the active officers of the institution are interested in its success and believe that it will not only accomplish great good but will be a paying investment. The paper is backed by a strong organization and funds have been provided in advance to assure its publication. Those in active control of THE NEGRO FARMER have my entire confidence and good will.

—BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

The success of this project is assured because of the solid and sensible lines upon which it is being laid out.

All the capital stock has been subscribed for.

The subscription price is $1.00 a year and Subscriptions and Advertisements are invited. Clubbing rates with important Negro newspapers will be arranged for on a satisfactory basis. We are now ready to receive Subscriptions and Advertisements.

The first issue of the paper will appear February first, 1914.

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